

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 02573 251729Z

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TAGS: SCUL UR

SUBJ: EXCHANGES: SOVIET PAG'S TO U.S.

REF: MOSCOW 2066

1. MINCULT CHIEF, MAIN ADMINISTRATION FOR EXTERNAL
RELATIONS, DYUZHEV, CALLED IN PRESS AND CULTURAL COUNSELOR
TO DISCUSS UPCOMING US TOURS BY BOLSHOI BALLET AND OPERA.
DYUZHEV ASKED DEPARTMENT BE INFORMED THAT ALL NEGOTIATIONS
COMPLETED. PRESS CONFERENCES PLANNED SIMULTANEOUSLY IN
WASHINGTON, NEW YORK AND MOSCOW MARCH 4.

2. BALLET TROUPE OF 144 MEMBERS WILL TOUR NUMBER OF
US CITIES FROM 22 APRIL UNTIL 20 JULY, 1975 (SEE REFTTEL).
BOLSHOI OPERA WITH 415 MEMBERS WILL BE IN US (NEW YORK
METROPOLITAN OPERA AND WASHINGTON KENNEDY CENTER) FROM
25 JUNE UNTIL 2 AUGUST, 1975.

3. DYUZHEV STRESSED THE UNPRECEDENTED NATURE OF THE
TOUR. IT IS FIRST TIME BOTH OPERA AND BALLET OF BOLSHOI
THEATER WILL TOUR ABROAD. DYUZHEV REFERRED TO EARLIER
PLANS FOR JOINT TOUR (1970) WHICH SOVIETS CANCELLED BECAUSE
THEY FELT INTERNAL SECURITY (I.E. AGAINST ACTIONS BY
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 02573 251729Z

JEWISH DEFENSE LEAGUE) COLD NOT RPT NOT BE GUARANTEED

BY U.S. SIDE. DYUZHEV ASKED P&C COUNSELOR TRANSMIT MINCULT'S VERY GREAT INTEREST IN THIS TOUR, THE IMPORTANCE SOVIETS ATTACH TO THESE CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS AND ROLE OF TOUR IN IMPROVING MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN US AND USSR. SPECIFICALLY, HE ASKED THAT DEPARTMENT TAKE ALL MEASURES TO INSURE BOLSHOI TOUR TAKE PLACE IN ATMOSPHERE CONDUCIVE TO SUCCESSFUL CULTURAL EXCHANGES, SIMILAR TO RECEPTION OF US GROUPS HERE.

4. P&C COUNSELOR ASSURED DYUZHEV THAT US WOULD TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO ENFORCE US LAWS. BELIEVE FURTHER RESPONSE FROM DEPARTMENT SPECIFIC TO BOLSHOI TOUR WOULD BE APPROPRIATE.
STOESSEL

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